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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to the end of a week where we have welcomed the newly elected Members of the House, who will join the 116th Congress.

We now approach a week during which all Americans will gather to remember who we are: a Nation generously blessed not only by You, our God, but by courageous ancestors, faithful allies, and the best good wishes of people everywhere, people who long for freedom, who would glory in the difficult work of participative government, and who do not enjoy the bounty we are privileged to possess.

Bless the Members of this assembly, and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DRUG PRICES

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, representing a rural district in which many small towns rely on just one pharmacy to access lifesaving drugs has made me a believer in the value of community pharmacists. I also believe in free markets and competition, but a healthy market requires transparency and a level playing field.

Unfortunately, based upon my recent visits to community pharmacists in towns like Golconda, Rosiclare, and Carmi, pharmacy benefit managers, PBMs, are threatening the solvency of these community institutions by using complicated formularies that often re-

sult in local pharmacies being reimbursed less per prescription than their higher volume, big box peers, and direct and indirect remuneration, or DIR, fees, which create uncertainty and can impose a serious cash flow squeeze that too many times forces independent pharmacists to close their doors or sell their businesses.

Drug prices are a big issue. We can help bring down costs by reducing barriers to drug development and delivery while increasing competition through transparency that allows everyone to compete on a level playing field.

HONORING HENRY W. COIL, JR.

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Henry W. Coil, Jr., a Riverside native and a champion of education in the arts.

Henry has left an indelible legacy as a visionary and as a philanthropist who loved and supported his community. Through his generous and highly successful construction work, he helped build and restore schools and infrastructure throughout the Inland Empire in southern California.

I knew Henry through his love for Riverside Community College, which he attended before moving on to UC Berkeley. At RCC, we worked to establish a new school for the arts, and it was Henry's philanthropy that helped turn this vision into a reality.

For most of his life, Henry was a successful businessman, but his dedication to his community set him apart. He served briefly on the Riverside City Council, and he was a devoted supporter of the Boy Scouts. In fact, he even went on to earn the Boy Scouts' Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, recognizing 50 years of his continued service to the Boy Scouts.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Above all, what made Henry special was his character. He stood up to bigotry and prejudice. I recall him saying to me how misguided he thought it was that a local politician was running a homophobic campaign. This was a bold position to take at the time, but this statement has stuck with me, throughout my life and career, as a mark of his character.

While Henry may no longer be with us, the positive change he created will never be forgotten.

MAKE SOIL, NOT SMOKE

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, every year, the Environmental Protection Agency honors students across the country for outstanding leadership and environmental achievements with the President's Environmental Youth Awards. Among this year's winners is Mr. Anderson's first grade class in Okanogan, Washington.

The students at Virginia Grainger Elementary School were recognized for their project titled "Make Soil Not Smoke." The class created a school garden and learned about the benefits of composting leaves instead of burning them. They decided to use their project to spread awareness about the benefits of composting and the harmful effects of burning leaves.

Their project is important to a community that has experienced firsthand the destruction of wildfires. As excitement for the project grew, the community joined in by donating compost materials, garden tools, and worms for vermicomposting.

In one year, Mr. Anderson's students have created over 200 cubic yards of garden compost. They use demonstrations, a parade float, and booths at State fairs and farmers markets to continue spreading awareness.

Please join me in recognizing the outstanding work the Make Soil Not Smoke group is doing for their community.

END HUNGER NOW

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I just saw a report that most minimum wage workers need 2½ full-time jobs to afford a one-bedroom apartment.

Many of us can't imagine deciding between paying rent and buying food, but that is exactly the choice that far too many Americans face. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, helps by providing a small benefit so families don't go hungry. But the farm bill that the House Republicans have passed cuts SNAP by \$23 billion.

Let's remember, most people on SNAP who can work, do work.

Let's also remember that real farmers rely on the farm bill. The longer Republicans try to use it for entitlement reform, the longer we hurt those farmers.

The American people made their priorities clear at the ballot box: They want to create opportunity and possibility for all our families.

Here is a radical idea: Let's listen to them. Let's follow the lead of Senate Republicans and Democrats who worked together on a farm bill that helps farmers and maintains SNAP. And let's end hunger now.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, next week, we will kick off the holiday season with Thanksgiving and reflect on all that we are thankful for in our lives. It also marks the start of the very busy holiday shopping season.

In an effort to support local shops that make our communities strong, Small Business Saturday takes place on the Saturday after Thanksgiving to encourage people to shop small and bring more holiday shopping to small businesses. On this day, we celebrate and support small businesses and all that they do for our local communities.

There are more than 30 million small businesses in the United States that have created 8.4 million jobs in the last two decades.

Mr. Speaker, small, locally owned businesses employ our neighbors and contribute to the fabric of our local communities.

The Shop Small movement truly is about supporting our mom-and-pop shops. Whether it is a cup of coffee from a local spot or a unique gift for a loved one, everyone has an opportunity to join in and support independent business owners on Small Business Saturday.

HONORING EMILY REESE

(Ms. ROSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Emily Reese, a cherished Nevanan, a loving mother of three, and a fearless healthcare advocate who worked tirelessly to put others before herself.

Emily devoted her last year of life to fighting for what she believed in: protecting access to quality, affordable healthcare for those who need it most. Her work touched many lives, including my own.

Emily's compassion and determination knew no boundaries, and it is those qualities that made her a powerful voice in our community.

As we pay tribute to her life, let us never forget to find strength in her

words: live life, love life, and impact others.

DISASTER RELIEF

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the House, the Senate, and the administration to adopt a disaster relief bill before December 7.

In recent months, we have witnessed catastrophes that have struck our Nation coast to coast, from wildfires across California, flooding in the Carolinas, and the incredible loss of agriculture in my home State of Georgia from Hurricane Michael.

Agriculture is the largest and oldest economic driver in the State of Georgia. The past few years, farmers have faced low commodity prices, unfair trade practices from foreign countries, labor shortages, and low crop yields that have created a strain on their businesses. They have also hurt the surrounding rural economies. Hurricane Michael made all of these past losses pale in comparison.

Following the storm, the likes of which Georgia has not seen in over a century, President Trump and Vice President PENCE visited my district and heard firsthand from farmers about how they went from having the best crops to no crops in a matter of hours. This disaster has been heartbreaking, and without additional Federal assistance, it will break the back of Georgia's rural economy.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a partisan issue; this is an American issue. I call on this Chamber to act now to help these farmers and others across our great Nation who are struggling with the aftermath of these disasters.

HONORING DOLORES MCCrackEN

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory and extraordinary life of an educator in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, whose dedication of Pennsylvania's children made her one of Pennsylvania's most prominent voices on education advocacy, policy, and practices.

Dolores McCracken, who served as president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association, passed away on November 13 following her courageous battle with cancer. Dolores spent the past two decades as a passionate activist for improved public education, working to promote PSEA initiatives on the Federal, State, and local levels.

Dolores' professional contributions to Pennsylvania education are impactful and incredibly far-reaching. She worked closely with numerous statewide partners and served on the